



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Honorable Robert E. Andrews
Member, U.S. House of Representatives
506A White Horse Pike
Haddon Heights, New Jersey 08035

Dear Congressman Andrews:

Thank you for your letter of January 7, 1997, on behalf of your constituent, Mr. James P. Flaherty, Director, Gloucester County Communications Center, Gloucester, New Jersey. Mr. Flaherty expresses his concerns regarding the possible effect on emergency service communications as a result of any Commission action that re-allocates channel 20 in the New Jersey region from land mobile use. The concern expressed by Mr. Flaherty relates to the Commission's recent proposal that establishes tentative policies for developing the initial digital television (DTV) channel allotments. In response to this proposal, the Broadcast Industry has requested that land mobile services should begin to migrate out of channels 14-20, so that this spectrum may be devoted to DTV. Your constituent is concerned that this would have a major impact on public safety radio services in Gloucester County, New Jersey, operating on channel 20.

On July 25, 1996, the Commission proposed policies for allotting channels for DTV service and also provided a draft DTV Table of Allotments. (Sixth Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in MM Docket No. 87-268, FCC No. 96-317, released August 14, 1996). In that action, the Commission proposed to provide all existing television broadcasters with a second 6 MHz channel for digital broadcasting. The Commission's plan for allotment of DTV channels would maintain the channels currently used for land mobile operations in a number of major markets, including channels 19 and 20 in the Philadelphia and adjacent New Jersey region. Although this proceeding is still pending, please be assured that we are carefully evaluating all available alternatives for maintaining the interests of land mobile operators as well as broadcasters as we develop the DTV Table of Allotments.

We will also include a copy of your letter in MM Docket No. 87-268. Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Smith
Chief
Office of Engineering and Technology

ROBERT E. ANDREWS
FIRST DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3001

January 10, 1997

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Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554-3505

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write to you on behalf of Mr. James Flaherty, Director, Communications Center, County of Gloucester, 1200 N. Delsea Dr., Clayton, NJ 08312, who has contacted my office for assistance. Enclosed please find correspondence regarding his request to submit reply comments concerning MM Docket No. 87-268 and its impact upon the existing television broadcast service.

I would appreciate if you would afford Mr. Flaherty all due consideration under the law in his efforts. In addition I would be interested in receiving your review and reply to this correspondence so that I may advise him accordingly.

Please forward your response to the attention of my aide, Ms. Susan Gronek, at 506A White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035, (609) 546-5100, Fax: (609) 546-9529. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



ROBERT E. ANDREWS
Member of Congress

REA:smg
enc.

REPLY TO:

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STEPHEN R. SALVATORE
FREEHOLDER

JAMES P. FLAHERTY
DIRECTOR

JAN 08 REC'D

January 7, 1997

Secretary FCC
1919 M. Street NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Reply Comments - Advanced Television Systems
MM Docket No. 87-268 and their impact upon
the Existing Television Broadcast Service.

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Gloucester County Public Safety Communications Center wishes to express its concerns for the Broadcast Industry's reply comments to re-allocate channel 20 from Land/Mobile use. The impact on the Public Safety community within our region would be detrimental. Gloucester County stands by its comments of October 29, 1996.

The only feasible option, if the Broadcast Industry wishes to reuse channel 20, would be to make all affected agencies whole. That would be to replace all frequencies lost and replace all equipment necessary for frequency re-assignment for both licensees and users.

Gloucester County Public Safety Communications urges the Commission to act favorably in this matter.

Sincerely,

JAMES P. FLAHERTY
DIRECTOR
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

JPF:dt

c: U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg
U.S. Senator Robert Torichelli
U.S. Representative Robert Andrews
State Senator Raymond J. Zane
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